

From: Michael De Jong
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft's Settlement

To Whom it may concern

Note acronyms: OS - operating system, IE - Internet Explorer, MS - Microsoft

? As a computer user since 1980, I have witnessed Microsoft's monopolistic practices with horror. I have owned many computers since 1980, platforms including Commodore - with DOS, Atari St with Gem operating system and now Apple Macintosh - with Mac OS for the past 8 years.

? It is sad that a company like Microsoft has continued its practices of bullying other companies into oblivion, some of course like Commodore and Atari did not have enough finances to compete and made crucial mistakes.

? Apple and Sun are two examples of companies who truly INNOVATE and yet they are kept at bay by Microsoft's practices. A company like Sun comes out with the JAVA language, a language that all platforms can communicate with, then Microsoft seeks a way to render it useless on other's platforms.

? Companies like Apple spend lots of money on R & D for its innovations and Microsoft turns the technology into its own.

Rectify Microsoft's practices

? Microsoft claiming that its IE browser is integrated into its own OS for ease is nonsense. To split them apart would be damaging is utter nonsense. Microsoft has the power to make its browser work on its own. Browsers on the Mac OS platform are their own entity, if you want to delete the browser, just drag the browser (Netscape or IE) to the trash and that is that. They do not wreck the MAC OS by doing so. Microsoft is very capable of making their OS work side by side with a browser. What is next, incorporating their own Picture, Video and Audio editing software into their OS and forcing companies like Adobe products to become impossible of running on Microsoft Windows. From what I've seen, it looks like Windows XP OS is already incorporating some of these programs/features.

- Programs should be their own source running with the OS, not intertwined. This means if they are eliminated the OS will still work great. This allows companies like Apple, Real, Netscape to design applications for Windows OS and make them work flawlessly. These competing companies should be able to have their product on every shipped Windows computer with their icon on the desktop or in the start menu alongside Microsoft's apps, so as the customer has choice. The same should be done on other computing platforms like the Mac OS, Linux, Sun,

etc.

? Microsoft's source code should be exposed to everyone who wants to see it. This would allow more exciting software development to emerge and compatibility between other platforms could increase.

? Microsoft software like MS Office should continue to be made for competing platforms. Also it's files should be made compatible with competing products. Example - when creating a MS word document, you should be able to save the document to a competitor's product like Appleworks, Corel Wordperfect, etc. This can easily be done on Microsoft's part. Apple's Word Processor - Appleworks allows one to open MS Word, save as MS word, so why cannot MS Word be designed to open an Appleworks document?

? Microsoft's 1 Billion dollar settlement for schools should be in cash, not Microsoft software. Let the schools decide where to spend the money. Allowing Microsoft to donate their own software and hardware will only increase their monopolistic power and make our children less educated. (meaning children will only be exposed to one type of computer OS, children are the best at learning two or more OS's. It is like learning more than one language, you can form a more honest opinion about one's language when you know the differences and benefit in the real work force which could be using tools like Mac OS or Windows.

I love the computing industry, there are great things about Apple, Sun and even Windows that make my computing life enjoyable. But Microsoft does more damage to this industry by forcing others to use their inferior products. Our world will become even more stagnant if Microsoft is not dealt with very soon. The world would be a pretty boring place if the only car we could drive were Ford Pintos or if the only highway we could take was a gravel road that took us 4000 miles of course towards our true destination.....advancement, progress and a better way of life.

Thank You

Michael De Jong
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Calgary, AB